ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Urban District of Linslade,

FOR THE YEAR

1915.

BY

J. H., *pro* C. M. L. COWPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

H. Jackson & Co., Printers, Leighton Buzzard.

TO THE

Urban District Council

OF

LINSLADE.

As Deputy Medical Officer for Dr. Cowper, I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1915.

The Population

according to the 1911 census, was 2,262.

Births and Birth Rate.

Forty-three births were registered during the year, an increase of five on the previous year. This gives a birth rate of 19.

Deaths and Death Rate.

Twenty-five deaths were registered in the district. To these must be added six deaths of residents not registered in the district. The total number for the year is therefore 31, giving a death rate of 13.70 per thousand. Four deaths included in the twenty-five were non-residents in the district; when these are deducted, the death rate is reduced to 11.93.

Notification of Births Act: Measures relating to Child and Maternity Welfare.

Since the last Report was issued, a new Act has been adopted, "The Notification of Births," and all births are now notified to the County Medical Officer (by the medical man, nurse or someone in attendance), within thirty-six hours. The object of this Act is the care of the mother during pregnancy and the subsequent care of the child, so as to improve the health and thus lessen infantile mortality. The District Nurse, Miss Cruess, with the consent of the Linslade Nursing Association, has undertaken the home-visiting of expectant mothers, and is prepared to give advice on all matters pertaining to the preservation of their own health and the conservation of the young lives, so essential to the country's future.

Infantile Mortality.

Two deaths of infants under one year of age were registered; neither, however, belonged to the district. One was an infant of one month, who died in a canal barge; the other, the child of a soldier on a visit here.

Zymotic Diseases.

Ten notifications were received—nine Diphtheria and one Scarlet Fever. With one exception (a case of diphtheria isolated at home) all were removed to the Hospital. The scarlet fever case was that of a soldier, billeted in Linslade.

Consumption.

No notifications were received during the year. Two deaths occurred,—cases which had been notified the previous year.

Over Sixty-Five Years.

Of the total number of deaths, thirteen were over 65 years of age.

Methods of dealing with Infectious Diseases.

Diseases notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, are isolated at home, if this can be done with safety. If not, they are removed to the Grove Isolation Hospital, jointly owned by the Wing Rural and Linslade Urban Districts.

It is situated in the Wing District.

After recovery, or removal of the patient to the Hospital, the infected premises are disinfected, under the supervision of Mr. Gurney, Sanitary Inspector.

Formalin fumigation is used, and the floors cleansed with suitable disinfectants. Personal effects and bedding are sent to the steam disinfector at Grove Hospital. Arrangements have been made with the medical authorities to take other patients, such as soldiers billeted in the district, suffering from infectious diseases for disinfecting and bathing, also for cleaning and disinfecting clothes and bedding.

Chief Occupations of Inhabitants and influence on Health.

The absence of unhealthy occupations doubtless contributes to the good health of the district and makes it specially suitable for a residental town.

In addition to the ordinary occupations incidental to a country town in an agricultural district, a considerable number of men find regular employment at the London and North Western Railway Station, Morgan's Carriage, Motor and Engineering Works, Yirrell's Builders' yard and premises, Printing Works, a mill for the manufacture of feeding stuffs for cattle, and premises for building and repairing canal boats.

Offensive Trades.

There are none.

Water Supply

is good and abundant. From a deep well the water is pumped to the top of a hill of sufficient elevation above the town level, and distributed by gravitation. This is cleared by sand, the sand being changed as required.

That the supply is excellent is shown by the fact that for some months, at the beginning of the year and previously, it supplied, in addition to the population, at least an equal number of soldiers who were billeted in the district.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The system in use in this district is still working and giving a good effluent.

Arrangements have been made for removing some of the old filtering material and renewing the same. It proved equal to the additional strain incurred, while soldiers were billeted in Linslade in the early part of the year.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

No complaints were received during the year.

House Refuse

is still removed by contract, and that which cannot be burned is deposited on the Council's land at the Sewage Pumping Station and buried.

This method has proved, so far, satisfactory, and additional land has been purchased, which will be adequate for some time.

Milk Supply, Milk Shops, Dairies and Cowsheds.

The milk supply is obtained from the farms in the district, and milk carts from Leighton Buzzard. There is one cowshed, well supplied with light, ventilation and floor drainage, and with plenty of cubic space per cow; also good drinking water for cows. Here the milking is done by machinery,—a much more sanitary method than by hand. No action regarding unwholesome milk, tuberculous or otherwise, has been found necessary during the year.

One case of anthrax was notified by the police, but the prompt measures taken to stamp it out proved efficacious, and no other case occurred.

The Linslade Council retains the services of a Veterinary Inspector for the district.

Slaughter Houses.

There is only one in the district. It is frequently inspected, regularly limewashed, and is in good condition, with suitable arrangements for flushing purposes. No unsound meat was found during the year.

Bakehouses.

Only one, which is regularly inspected, limewashed, and in accordance with all the requirements.

Factories and Workshops.

Morgan's Carriage and Motor Works. A modern building, roomy, well lighted and ventilated, supplied with sufficient sanitary conveniences and equipped with automatically closing fireproof doors.

Brantom's Mills for corn crushing, manufacture of feeding stuffs for cattle, etc., also in good condition, with plenty of room, light and ventilation.

Printing Works.—A comparatively new building, first constructed for a Brewery, altered and fitted up for its present purpose.

Premises for building and repairing canal boats, situated beside the canal and in good order.

There are also twelve workshops, including the bakehouse previously mentioned, all being for the ordinary trades of a small town, such as dressmaking, tailoring, forges, hand laundries, etc. No defects were found.

Outworkers.

No lists have been received and there are probably none in the district.

Schools.

Are three in number.

1. The New Boys' School. Lofty, well-ventilated and up-to-date in school architecture.

2. The Stoke Road Council Girls' School. A good,

roomy, well-lighted and ventilated building, of which the sanitary condition is good.

3. The Council Infants' School. Previously used for both girls and infants, now only for the latter, for which it is certainly better suited on account of the smaller number of children. All previous objections are now non-existent.

Nuisances.

No complaints were received, but three were detected.

All were abated by the persons responsible.

No houses were inspected during 1915, and no closing orders were made.

The whole of the houses in the district have been inspected twice by the inspector, previous to troops being billeted in the district.

House Accommodation—Especially Working Classes: Its Adequacy and Fitness for Habitation.

There is plenty of adequate accommodation, and a good many new houses suitable for the artisan and working classes have been built in recent years. Most of the houses have plenty of open space, plots of garden and clean surroundings.

The Council exercises strict supervision over the erection of new houses. All plans are submitted to the Council and occupation is not permitted until all Bye-laws have been conformed to, and efficient sanitary arrangements carried out.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H., *pro* C. M. L. COWPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1915 & previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncor. No.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under One Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	2230	41	41	18·38	23	10·31		1	3	73·17	24	10·76
1910	2230	55	55	24·66	35	15·69		2	1	18·18	37	16·59
1911	2262	45	45	19·89	29	12·82		3	8	177·78	32	14·15
1912	2262	35	35	15·47	24	10·61		2	3	85·71	26	11·06
1913	2262	46	46	20·33	22	9·32		5	5	108·7	27	11·93
1914	2262	38	38	16·79	31	13·70	1	1	3	78·94	31	13·70
1915	2262	43	43	19·1	31	13·70		6	2	46·51	31	13·70

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) } 1693

Total population at all ages 2262
Number of inhabited houses 560
Average number of persons per house 4
} At Census, 1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1915.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.							Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	9	...	2	4	2	1	...	8*
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever.....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Typhus Fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	10	...	2	4	3	1		9

Grove Isolation Hospital, Grove. Total available beds, 20.
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.
* One case Diphtheria treated at home.

TABLE III.

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1915.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District							
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards
All Causes { Certified / Uncert.	31	2	1	1	1	7	6	13
Enteric Fever								
Small-pox								
Measles								
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping Cough ...								
Diphtheria and Croup ...								
Influenza								
Erysipelas								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..								
Tuberculous Meningitis								
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2					1	1	
Cancer, malignant Disease	2							2
Rheumatic Fever ...								
Meningitis								
Organic Heart Disease ..	11			1		3		7
Bronchitis	2						1	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	3	2	1					
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs								
Diarrhœa and Enteritis								
Appendicitis & Typhlitis	1					1		
Cirrhosis of Liver ...								
Alcoholism								
Nephritis and Bright's Disease								
Puerperal Fever... ...								
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...								
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide								
Suicide	1				1			
Other Defined Diseases	8					1	4	3
Diseases ill-defined or unknown								
Accidents...	1					1		
Totals	31	2	1	1	1	7	6	13

TABLE IV.

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT.—Infantile Mortality during the year 1915.
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes { Certified									
All Causes { Uncertified									
Small-pox									
Chicken-pox									
Measles									
Scarlet Fever									
Whooping Cough ...									
Diphtheria : Croup ...									
Erysipelas									
Tuberculous Meningitis									
Abdominal Tuberculosis									
Other Tuberculous Diseases									
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)									
Convulsions									
Laryngitis...									
Bronchitis									
Pneumonia (all forms) ...					1		1		2
Diarrhœa									
Enteritis									
Gastritis									
Syphilis									
Rickets									
Suffocation, overlying ...									
Injury at Birth									
Atelectasis									
Congenital Malformations									
Premature Birth									
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus									
Other Causes									
Totals					1		1		2

Nett Births in one Year—Legitimate 41, Illegitimate 2.
Nett Deaths in the Year—Legitimate Infants, 1. Illegitimate, 1.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

INSPECTION.

Factories (including Factory Laundries)	8
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	30
Total	38

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, including Bakehouses	12

OTHER MATTERS.

Underground Bakehouses	nil.

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Medical Officer of Health.